

Claims:

1. A composition comprising liver basement membrane of a warm-blooded vertebrate, wherein the liver basement membrane is substantially free of cells of said warm-blooded vertebrate and the liver basement membrane is retained in its natural three dimensional shape.
2. A composition prepared from liver tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate, wherein said composition is useful as a non-immunogenic tissue graft capable of inducing endogenous tissue growth when implanted in warm-blooded vertebrates, said composition comprising an extracellular matrix consisting essentially of liver basement membrane retained in its natural three dimensional shape and devoid of endogenous cells associated with said liver tissue.
3. The use of liver basement membrane to manufacture a non-immunogenic tissue graft composition for use in the repair of damaged or diseased tissues.
4. The use according to claim 3 wherein the liver basement membrane is fluidized.
5. The composition of claim 3, wherein the liver basement membrane is dried and in powder form.
6. A method for inducing the formation of endogenous tissue at a site in need of endogenous tissue growth in a warm blooded vertebrate, said method comprising implanting a graft composition comprising an extracellular matrix consisting essentially of basement membrane of liver tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth at the site the graft composition is administered, said liver basement membrane being devoid of endogenous cells associated with said liver tissue.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the graft composition is fluidized and is administered by injection into the warm-blooded vertebrate.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the graft composition is administered by surgically implanting the composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

AMENDED SHEET

9. A method for preparing a tissue graft composition from warm-blooded vertebrate liver tissue having both cellular and extracellular components, said method comprising the steps of

treating the liver tissue with a cell dissociation solution for a period of time sufficient to release the cellular components of the liver tissue from the extracellular components without substantial disruption of the extracellular components, and

separating the cellular components from said extracellular components.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the cell dissociation solution comprises a chaotropic agent.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the cell dissociation solution comprises a protease.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the cell dissociation solution comprises EDTA and trypsin.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the liver tissue is sliced into sheets or strips of liver tissue before the liver tissue is treated with the dissociation solution

14. The method of claim 13 where the liver tissue is sliced into sheets or strips having a thickness of up to about 500 μ .

20. 15. A liver tissue derived composition for supporting the growth of a cell population, said composition comprising isolated liver basement membrane retained in its natural three dimensional shape and devoid of source liver tissue endogenous cells; and

added nutrients to support the growth of said cell population *in vitro*.

25. 16. A liver tissue derived composition for supporting the growth of a cell population, said composition comprising

culture-ware coated with a matrix comprising liver basement membrane devoid of source liver tissue endogenous cells.

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